

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 MCE-00 IO-13
EB-08 /098 W

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R 181505Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7266

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: FR SF MILI
SUBJ: FRENCH ARMS EMBARGO TOWARDS SOUTH AFRICA

REF: (A) STATE 192343; (B) PARIS 23201

1. NEWS REPORTS REFERRED TO IN REF A WERE, FOR THE MOST PART, CLEARLY SOURCED TO THE QUAI SPOKESMAN. HIS FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT ON AUGUST 9 WAS THE FRENCH RESPONSE TO THE TASS ACCUSATION CONCERNING SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT WHICH WE REPORTED (REF B). QUAI SPOKESMAN WENT ON TO SAY THAT FRANCE HAD "EXTENDED" ITS EMBARGO ON ITS ARMS SALES TO SOUTH AFRICA TO THE ENTIRE RANGE OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT INCLUDING WARSHIPS. HE NOTED THAT GOF WOULD STILL HONOR THE TWO LONG-STANDING CONTRACTS FOR TWO SUBMARINES OF 1.200 TONS OF THE AGOSTA CLASS AND FOR TWO DESTROYER ESCORTS OF 1.170 TONS OF THE CLASS D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES. AS DEPARTMENT WILL HAVE NOTED FROM WIRE SERVICES FROM NAIROBI, FOREIGN MINISTER GUIRINGAUD REPEATED THIS POSITION IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE THERE.

2. OUR QUAI SOURCES SAY THERE HAS NOT BEEN AND WILL
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NOT BE A FORMAL TEXT OF SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT, BUT THEY MAY EVENTUALLY HAVE A WRITTEN VERSION OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S REMARKS IN NAIROBI. THEY NOTE THIS IS REALLY NOT VERY NEW SINCE A SIMILAR POSITION HAD BEEN ANNOUNCED BY PRESIDENT GISCARD WHEN HE VISITED ZAIRE IN AUGUST 1975; NAMELY, THAT FRANCE WOULD TERMINATE GROUND AND AIR ARMS SHIPMENTS TO SOUTH

AFRICA (75 KINSHASA 7374). QUAI SOURCE NOTED THAT THE
SHIP CONTRACTS NOTED PARA 1 DATED PRIOR TO AUGUST 1975
AND REPRESENTED THE PRINCIPAL EXCEPTIONS TO THE ARMS
BAN WHICH GISCARD ANNOUNCED IN 1975.

3. QUAI SOURCE COMMENTED THAT FRENCH STATEMENTS
SHOULD BE TAKEN AT THEIR FACE VALUE. HE DECLINED TO
ELABORATE.
HARTMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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